



**Convention on the Elimination
of all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women**

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
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WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 21 OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Analysis of article 6 (and other articles relating to violence
towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of
women) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women

Report by the Secretariat

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* CEDAW/C/1992/1.

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Explanatory note

In this document, country names and designations are those that were in use when the data were being compiled.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) decided at its tenth session 1/ that it should prepare comments on particular articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180, annex, of 18 December 1979, which would assist in the formulation of the Committee's general recommendations relating to those articles, in accordance with article 21 of the Convention.

2. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a background report for consideration by the Committee when it analysed the article concerned, drawing on reports of States parties to the 1979 Convention, reports of the Committee, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, 2/ other United Nations documents available to the Secretariat, and information from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

3. The Committee decided to analyse article 6 of the Convention (and other articles related to violence towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of the prostitution of women) at its eleventh session in 1992.

4. The Committee, by its General Recommendation No. 12 (eighth session, 1989), 3/ considered that articles 2, 5, 11, 12 and 16 of the Convention required States parties to act to protect women against violence of any kind occurring within the family, at the work place or any other area of social life. Consequently, the Committee recommended that States parties should include in their periodic reports information on:

"1. The legislation in force to protect women against the incidence of all kinds of violence in everyday life (including sexual violence, abuses in the family, sexual harassment at the work place etc.);

"2. Other measures adopted to eradicate this violence;

"3. The existence of support services for women who are the victims of aggression or abuses;

"4. Statistical data on the incidence of violence of all kinds against women and on women who are the victims of violence."

5. The present report analyses, first, the approach by States parties to the issue of the suppression of traffic in women and the exploitation of the prostitution of women (article 6), as well as the approach taken in other United Nations forums; and secondly, the types of violence on which States have reported under other articles, the specific articles of the Convention under which they have reported and the types of measures that they have taken to deal with the problem.

I. SUPPRESSION OF ALL FORMS OF TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND
OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE PROSTITUTION OF WOMEN

6. Article 6 of the 1979 Convention states: "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women." The analysis is based on the information provided by 59 States parties to the Convention in reports considered by the Committee and information provided during their consideration by the Committee.

A. The extent of prostitution and its causes

7. Prostitution is seen as a serious social problem in six countries. 4/ It is not considered a problem in 11 countries. 5/ However, no country has provided statistics on the number of professional prostitutes except the Republic of Korea. One country notes that although prostitution tourism had developed in recent years, the number of prostitutes may have declined owing to the fear of AIDS. 6/ Several States parties state that professional prostitution no longer exists because the social causes of that problem have been eliminated. 7/

8. It is stated in various reports that the causes of prostitution arise out of an economic need and it is more an unemployment problem than a moral question. Prostitution is taken up to ensure livelihood because of poverty and unemployment, 8/ in many cases after migration from the countryside to town. 9/

B. Legislative measures

1. Concerning prostitution as an act

9. Several States parties have enacted laws that prohibit and punish prostitution per se. 10/ Prostitution is regarded as "one of the forms of committing the crime of the 'parasitic' under the Penal Code" in one country, 11/ and qualified as "a chargeable behaviour pattern" in another country. 12/

10. Legislation in some countries permits the clients of prostitutes to be punished. 13/ Relevant legislation of the State of Victoria of Australia provides that it is an offence in any public place to invite or solicit any person to prostitute themselves for pecuniary reward, or to loiter in or frequent any public place to be accosted by a prostitute. Under the criminal code in one country, clients could be convicted of communicating or attempting to communicate in public places for the purpose of prostitution. 14/ Soliciting in public places is also prohibited by law in the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Gabon and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The law in Japan prohibits inducing people to become a customer of a prostitute.

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11. Prostitution per se is not a criminal offence in any other reporting State. States parties are generally of the view that rather than making prostitution a criminal offence it should be addressed by social measures. 15/ Prohibition of prostitution through legislation is no longer a feasible option in Australia. Evidence has shown that suppression is impossible and attempts to enforce more stringent laws would require substantial resources. The option of retaining the present legislative position has been rejected as it sustained inequalities. It was usually the female prostitute who was prosecuted and not the customer. The prostitute therefore was being victimized and lost civil liberties. Further, according to Australian law it was inappropriate for the law to be involved in the enforcement of private sexual morality. 16/

12. There are administrative impediments to the exercise of prostitution in some countries. Prostitution is allowed only at places confined by the authorities and under medical control, 17/ or tolerated in closed premises. 18/ Prostitution is not addressed at all in legislation in two countries, 19/ six others give no information on their laws. 20/

2. Traffic in women and the exploitation of the prostitution of women

13. Traffic in persons, as defined in article 1 of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 317 (IV) of 2 December 1949, means any person who:

"1. Procures, entices or leads away, for purposes of prostitution, another person, even with the consent of that person;

"2. Exploits the prostitution of another person, even with the consent of that person."

14. Several States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have informed the Committee that they have ratified the 1949 Convention or other conventions consolidated in the 1949 Convention (see annex below). Another State has informed the Committee that it voted against the adoption of the 1949 Convention "because some of its provisions were drafted so as to affect a far wider range of people than those at which it was, and the title is, ostensibly aimed. Particularly, article 1 of the Convention requires the punishment of any person who procures the prostitution of another person without any reference to gain". 21/ Therefore, according to one interpretation, the 1949 Convention could be used as a justification for prostitution. The 1949 Convention has shifted emphasis from the traffic in persons to prostitution per se, for example, article 2 of that Convention makes it an offence to keep, manage or finance a brothel or rent premises for the purpose of prostitution. 22/

15. Most States parties report that they have enacted laws that prohibit and penalize all forms of traffic in women, and the exploitation of prostitution in women, including the promotion and encouragement of prostitution. 23/ Certain laws provide for increased penalties for the offender in aggravated circumstances, for example, when the victim is a relative, a minor or a spouse. If force, threat or fraud are involved in the exploitation of prostitution, the prescribed penalties are increased or doubled. Several States have imposed criminal penalties on the owner, manager, administrator or lessee of a house of prostitution and anyone who tolerates prostitution in a house. 24/ Advertising of facilities for prostitution shall be punished in Rwanda.

16. One State party considers that to penalize the letting and hiring of rooms for the purpose of prostitution is undesirable since it would drive prostitution into the underworld beyond the control of the police, and would make women more dependent on procurers. 25/

17. One country reports on law reforms under way that would enable courts to impose stiffer sentences on procurers and brothel owners and send prostitutes to reform institutions rather than to prison. 26/ The need for law reform is stressed by another country in order to prosecute parents who sell their children into prostitution. 27/

C. Other measures

18. Several States parties cite programmes and institutions that have been established to prevent, suppress or minimize the need for prostitution or to re-educate and rehabilitate the victims of prostitution. 28/ One State reports on income-generating measures for poor sectors of the population to combat the poverty-induced causes of prostitution, 29/ another envisages tax and social security matters for prostitutes. 30/ Insurance coverage was the goal of the Federal Ministry of Women in Austria.

19. Some States parties report on police controls that have been carried out in public establishments and places that tend to become habitual meeting places for prostitution. 31/ Special police licences are required to "regulate and control" specified establishments, including brothels, in another State. 32/

20. Those who practise prostitution are required to submit to periodical medical examination. 33/ There is mandatory registration for prostitutes who receive a health card. 34/ In other States, brothels must obtain medical permits. 35/ In some, preventive health education is carried out to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS for high-risk groups. 36/ In others, social hygiene clinics provide counselling services. 37/

21. Information campaigns to sensitize the public to the problem of prostitution are carried out in some States, 38/ and conferences are held and information is publicized in others. 39/

D. State practices under article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

22. The majority of the reporting States parties do not prohibit and punish prostitution per se, but rather favour social measures to counter it. Few have laws to prosecute the client of a prostitute. None of the States parties that prosecute prostitution state that it has ceased to be a problem in the country. Thus, penal laws might not have had the desired results. The majority of States parties (48) sanction by law traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution. Some countries permit the existence of brothels and thus the commercial exploitation of prostitution of women. Most States parties have established a network of social measures to protect, re-educate and rehabilitate prostitutes, including those countries that admit that prostitution is a serious problem.

E. Developments relating to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)

23. The 1949 Convention entered into force on 25 July 1951. As of 9 May 1991, 61 States were parties to that Convention. The 1949 Convention consolidated other international treaties dating back to 1904. Although the 1949 Convention, in its preamble, states that prostitution is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endangers the welfare of the individual, the family and the community, it accepts prostitution per se. The procurer rather than the prostitute is the target of the Convention. The Convention only aims at prohibiting and abolishing the traffic in women and children. By accession to the Convention, States parties undertake to punish any person who either procures or entices another person for purposes of prostitution, even with the consent of that person, or keeps or supports a brothel. States parties agree to make these offences extraditable, to supervise employment agencies in order to prevent the traffic and to provide rehabilitation for the victims of prostitution.

24. In accordance with article 21 of the Convention, States parties undertake to communicate to the Secretary-General information on laws and regulations and all measures adopted to ensure the application of the Convention.

25. The Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights set up a Working Group on Slavery in 1974, renamed the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 1988, to monitor the application of the three slavery-related Conventions: the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926 and amended by Protocol by the United Nations on 7 December 1953; the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, adopted by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries at Geneva on 7 September 1956; and the 1949 Convention. The latter was the main subject of the Working Group's 1991 session.

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26. The report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/41) contains the proposals of non-governmental organizations concerning this subject (para. 23), makes reference to a meeting of experts, which was co-sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (para. 21), and sets out a programme of action for the prevention of the traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others.

27. By its resolution 1991/34, the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, having taken note of the report of the Working Group, recommends inter alia:

"That the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, when examining periodic reports of States parties, give particular attention to the implementation of, respectively, articles 8 and 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, articles 10, 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and articles 32, 34 and 36 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a view to combating contemporary forms of slavery."

28. By its resolution 1991/37, the Subcommission endorsed a draft programme of action, of the Working Group, for the prevention of traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others.

II. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REPORTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER OTHER ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

A. Inclusion of violence against women in reports by States parties

29. A total of 74 States parties submitted initial reports to CEDAW on the implementation of the 1979 Convention from its entry into force on 3 September 1981 to 31 August 1991. In addition, 33 States parties submitted second periodic reports. Of the 107 initial and second periodic reports, 79 were submitted prior to the adoption of General Recommendation No. 12 (eighth session, 1989) by the Committee.

30. Prior to General Recommendation No. 12, a total of 14 States parties had provided information on violence against women, either in their reports or during presentations of their reports to the Committee. 40/ A total of 24 additional States parties reported on violence against women subsequent to General Recommendation No. 12. 41/ Thus, a total of 38 of the 74 States parties (51 per cent) have reported on the Convention and have mentioned violence in some way in their reports.

31. The States parties that report on violence against women come from all groups of countries, but the largest number are from States members of the group of Western European and other States (17) and States in Latin America and the Caribbean (11). Three States members from Eastern Europe, three States from Asia and the Pacific and five States from Africa also report on violence against women.

32. There are no apparent differences in the frequency of reporting in terms of whether a State follows a common law system or other type of legal system.

33. The types of issue raised and the measures applied to deal with them can best be understood in terms of the article under which they are reported. Although 4 States report on the issue under general comments on the implementation of the Convention, the largest number (24 States) report under article 16. There are 13 States that report under article 12, and 11 States report under article 11. There are 2 States that report under article 5; and 9 States report under more than one article.

B. Types of violence reported and measures taken

34. Three States report on the issue in the general comments section of their reports. They report on the definition of sexual assault, including rape, and legislation thereon. For example, in France, a law of 1980 concerning the legal definition of rape and other breaches of morality was characterized by a dual function: suppression and prevention. Suppression referred to specific aggression, of which women may be victims and which had remained unpunished in practice.

1. Article 5

35. Two States, 42/ report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.64, p. 10) on violence under article 5. The Barbados report states that:

"Much attention has been placed on one of the subtle forms of cultural practices, based on the idea of the superiority or inferiority of either of the sexes, which extends to the exploitation of women by violence against them."

Measures reported include research, presentations in the media and work with non-governmental organizations to raise community consciousness.

36. In Canada, a major public education campaign has been launched to educate the public and to emphasize the seriousness of violence against women.

2. Article 11

37. The issue in the reports of 11 States is sexual harassment in the workplace. 43/ One report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.38, para. 488) contains the view that "sexual harassment was an understated problem in Jamaica and not many complaints had been brought to court".

38. Six reporting countries have dealt with the issue by legislation, either by including sexual harassment in sex discrimination legislation or in protective legislation for workers. The main means for pursuing remedies are through the courts, but it is suggested in the reports that few cases have been brought.

39. In some countries, remedies can be sought through such institutions as equal opportunity commissions or women's counselling centres, either at the federal or local level.

40. Several countries report on research on the phenomenon of sexual harassment and emphasize media programmes to raise consciousness of the existence of the problem.

3. Article 12

41. Under article 12, health dimensions of family violence, rape and genital mutilation are the specific issues reported upon by 13 States parties. 44/

42. Regarding health, the measures taken are usually programmatic rather than legal. Commissions for battered women have been established in three countries to coordinate policy on the issue. 45/ Shelters for victims of family violence have been set up where women can receive treatment, psychological counselling and legal advice. 46/ Rape crisis centres have been institutionalized. 47/ Refuges are normally run by women's organizations and other voluntary organizations and are often financed by the State. 48/ Research institutions examine the physical and mental effects of family violence. 49/ Women's organizations carry out information activities on violence against women. 50/

43. Two States report on female genital mutilation. In Burkina Faso, committees have been set up to deal with the practice, and in Senegal women's groups are attempting to increase public awareness of its harmfulness.

4. Article 16

44. Well over half of the States reporting on violence have done so under article 16. 51/ The issue is thus largely seen in the context of marriage and family. Although most measures in the context are legal ones, there are also administrative and other public policy measures.

45. Physical abuse in the home is largely prohibited by law. For example, violence in the family is "condemned" by the Constitution of Nigeria. It is a punishable offence in the USSR, alcohol abuse is considered an aggravating circumstance. Violence inflicted by a family member is a crime, and punished accordingly in Peru and Uruguay. The Domestic Protection Act of 1982 of New Zealand provided new and improved remedies for the victims of domestic violence. In the United Kingdom spouses are protected from domestic violence by the Matrimonial Homes Act of 1983, the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act of 1976 and the Supreme Court Act of 1981.

46. Several countries report the abolition but others the continuation of legal provisions wherein an accepted defence in criminal courts for violence against a wife, where the husband alleges infidelity, is "honour". For example, in Madagascar, the report states that "murder by the husband of his wife and her lover surprised in flagrante delicto in the marital home is considered excusable; it is punishable by a term of imprisonment of one to five years only" (art. 324 of the Criminal Code) (CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/Rev.1, para. 133 (a)).

47. The issue of marital rape has received attention in some countries. In New Zealand a law of 1985 declares sexual violence against women a crime and widens the definition of rape to include rape by the husband. Divorce and judicial separation revoke the consent to sexual intercourse that is implied from the existence of marriage; accordingly, in the United Kingdom a man might, if the necessary facts can be proved, be convicted of raping his wife if a judicial separation or divorce is in force. Cases of rape in matrimony are not punishable under the Penal Code in Finland, although the Penal Code has been critically evaluated.

48. In some countries, domestic violence might serve as grounds for divorce or separation. In Iraq, for example, a spouse might request separation "if any of the spouses commit a harmful act against the other or against their children, thus rendering the continuation of their married life impossible" (CEDAW/C/5/Add.66/Rev.1, p. 43).

49. Policy and programmatic measures report emphasized assistance to victims of family violence. In 1984, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police instructed members to lay charges in all cases of spousal assault. Resource material has been compiled and support provided for battered women. In Argentina, a commission and centres for assistance to battered women have been established. Houses for battered women exist in Uruguay. Victimized women can seek assistance from women's consultative offices at each prefecture in Japan. An increase in domestic violence is attributed to women's increasing economic participation in Jamaica and crisis centres provide assistance to rape and incest victims, and battered women. A programme of social and family integration and legal assistance deals with cases of domestic violence in Mexico. In Portugal, a media campaign to increase awareness on violence within the family is reported.

C. Conclusions

50. States parties are increasingly reporting on violence against women, other than prostitution, to CEDAW. The frequency is greater since the adoption of General Recommendation No. 12. However, only a few countries cover the full range of the types of violence identified. The States parties that report on violence come largely from those regions where the status of women is generally higher than in other regions. For most reporting States, the issue is identified in connection with the family relationships covered in article 16, rather than in other terms.

51. It cannot, therefore, be concluded that the issue of violence in the sense set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/18 is considered by most States parties to be covered by the Convention, since they do not report on all of the aspects contained in that resolution.

52. The types of violence reported by States parties, however, range from physical battering through more subtle forms of psychological pressure both in the home and the workplace. The measures to deal with the problem tend to centre on legal remedies, often in the context of sex discrimination legislation or family law, social services or media awareness campaigns.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38).

2/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), para. 392.

4/ Gabon, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Sweden and Thailand.

5/ Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Jamaica, Mongolia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

6/ Federal Republic of Germany.

7/ Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

8/ Argentina, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

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Notes (continued)

- 9/ Burkina Faso and Venezuela.
- 10/ Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Hungary, Nicaragua, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand and Ukrainian SSR.
- 11/ Czechoslovakia.
- 12/ Panama.
- 13/ Australia (State of Victoria), Equatorial Guinea, Philippines and Sri Lanka.
- 14/ Canada.
- 15/ Sweden.
- 16/ Australia.
- 17/ Austria, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Panama and Rwanda.
- 18/ Ecuador.
- 19/ Egypt and Portugal.
- 20/ Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Malawi, USSR and Venezuela.
- 21/ United Kingdom.
- 22/ Australia.
- 23/ Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Mali, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.
- 24/ Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukrainian SSR and United Kingdom.
- 25/ Federal Republic of Germany.
- 26/ Indonesia.
- 27/ Thailand.

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Notes (continued)

28/ Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Cuba, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Spain, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

29/ Federal Republic of Germany.

30/ Belgium.

31/ Finland, France, Japan and Turkey.

32/ Peru.

33/ Ecuador.

34/ Austria and Peru.

35/ Ecuador.

36/ Nicaragua.

37/ Philippines.

38/ Burkina Faso, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, and Jamaica.

39/ Norway.

40/ Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Jamaica, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

41/ Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, Uruguay, USSR and Yugoslavia. A number of the States that had previously reported on violence also did so in subsequent periodic reports.

42/ Barbados and Canada.

43/ Australia, Belgium, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Jamaica, Japan, Portugal and Spain.

44/ Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Senegal, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

45/ Argentina, New Zealand and Norway.

46/ Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

47/ Ireland and New Zealand.

/...

Notes (continued)

48/ Belgium, Finland, Ireland and New Zealand.

49/ Austria, Norway and United Kingdom.

50/ Belgium.

51/ Argentina, Austria, Canada, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USSR and Venezuela.

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Annex

STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN THAT HAVE ALSO RATIFIED OTHER CONVENTIONS RELATING TO PROSTITUTION
AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

(Status of ratification at 31 December 1990)

Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children a/	International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children b/	Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age c/	International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age d/	Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploita- tion of the Prostitution of Others e/	Final Protocol to the Conven- tion for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploita- tion of the Prostitution of Others f/
Australia	Australia	Australia	Afghanistan	Argentina	Argentina
Austria	Austria	Austria	Australia	Bangladesh	Belgium
Belgium	Belgium	Belgium	Austria	Belgium	Brazil
Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Belgium	Bolivia	Bulgaria
Canada	Canada	Côte d'Ivoire	Brazil	Brazil	Byelorussian SSR
China	China	Cuba	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Cuba
Côte d'Ivoire	Cuba	Czechoslovakia	Chile	Burkina Faso	Czechoslovakia
Cuba	Czechoslovakia	Finland	Cuba	Ryvelorussian SSR	Denmark
Czechoslovakia	Denmark	Greece	Czechoslovakia	Cameroon	Ecuador
Denmark	Egypt	Hungary	Finland	Central African Republic	Finland
Egypt	Finland	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Greece	Comon	Guinea
Finland	Germany	Luxembourg	Hungary	Cuba	Haiti
Germany	Greece	Madagascar	Ireland	Cyprus	Honduras
Greece	Hungary	Mali	Latvia	Czechoslovakia	Israel
Hungary	Ireland	Mexico	Mexico	Denmark	Japan
Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Netherlands	Ecuador	Liberia
Italy	Jamaica	Nicaragua	Nicaragua	Egypt	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Jamaica	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Norway	Norway	Ethiopia	Luxembourg
Luxembourg	Jamahiriya	Nicaragua	Poland	Finland	Mexico
Malta	Luxembourg	Philippines	Portugal	France	Norway
Mexico	Madagascar	Poland	Romania	Guinea	Philippines
Myanmar	Malawi	Romania	South Africa	Honduras	Poland
Netherlands	Malta	Sweden	Sweden	Hungary	Republic of Korea
Nicaragua	Mexico	Turkey	Turkey	Iran	Romania
Niger	Netherlands	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics		Israel	Spain
Norway	Nicaragua			Italy	Ukrainian SSR
Pakistan	Norway			Japan	Venezuela
Poland	Pakistan			Lao People's Democratic Republic	Yugoslavia
Romania	Philippines			Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	
Sweden	Poland			Luxembourg	
Syrian Arab Republic	Romania			Malawi	
Turkey	Sweden			Mali	
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Turkey			Mexico	
Yugoslavia	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics			Norway	
	Yugoslavia			Pakistan	
				Philippines	
				Poland	
				Republic of Korea	
				Romania	
				Senegal	
				Spain	
				Sri Lanka	
				Togo	
				Ukrainian SSR	
				Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	
				Venezuela	
				Yemen	
				Yugoslavia	

(Footnotes on following page)

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(Footnotes to table)

a/ Concluded at Geneva on 30 September 1921 and amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, 12 November 1947.

b/ Geneva, 30 September 1921.

c/ Concluded at Geneva on 11 October 1933 and amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, 12 November 1947.

d/ Geneva, 11 October 1933.

e/ General Assembly resolution 317 (IV), annex, 2 December 1949.

f/ Opened for signature at Lake Success, New York, 21 March 1950.
